

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed November 4, 2004, the Examiner noted that claims 1-76 were pending, and rejected claims 1-76. Claims 1, 68, 72, 75 and 76 have been amended, claims 35-49 and 56-59 are canceled and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 1-34, 50-55 and 60-76 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections and objections are traversed below.

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, 29-35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 48, 50-52, 54, 56, 58 and 66-76 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Ijima.

Ijima discusses a system that analyzes multiple beams to determine tracking error. In particular, Ijima discusses a system that reflects a single laser beam from a medium and then splits the beam into plural beams using a hologram (see figures 2, 3, 15, 19, 20, 21, 23, and 26). The split beams are then analyzed.

In contrast, the present invention splits the source beam into several beams and the several beams are reflected off of the recording medium (see claims 1, 68, 72, 75 and 76). By providing plural source beams the present invention allows more accurate tracking than Ijima.

Further, Ijima calls for using a selector to select one of the types of tracking signals produced (see col. 8, lines 56-61).

In contrast, the present invention performs tracking with the three-beam method and one of the push pull methods (see claims 1, 68, 72, 75 and 76). By providing multiple simultaneous tracking techniques, the present invention improves tracking.

It is submitted that the present claimed invention of claims 1-3, 5, 29-35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 48, 50-52, 54, 56, 58 and 66-76 patentably distinguishes over Ijima and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 16, 17, 29, 30, 35-51, 56-61 and 66-76 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Izumi.

Izumi discusses a system in which a laser beam is split into three parts a center and two side light spots (see figures 3-6, and 24) that are used for tracking.

In contrast, the present invention produces a main source beam and at least four sub-light source beams (see claims 1, 68, 72, 75 and 76). By providing at least four source beams the present invention allows more tracking options than Izumi.

Further, Izumi, like Ijima does not use a combination of methods at the same time (see, for example, Izumi, col. 4, lines 60-65, col. 6, lines 45-55, col. 13, lines 19-22 & col. 29, lines 35-65), which is in contrast to the present invention where the three beam method and one of the push pull methods (see claims 1, 68, 72, 75 and 76) are used.

It is submitted that the present claimed invention patentably distinguishes over Izumi and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The dependent claims depend from the above-discussed independent claims and are patentable over the prior art for the reasons discussed above. The dependent claims also recite additional features not taught or suggested by the prior art. For example, claim 3 calls for is directed to a system that uses one pair of beams for the three beam method and another pair for the improved push pull method. Shindo says nothing about such. It is submitted that the dependent claims are independently patentable over the prior art.

It is submitted that the claims s are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

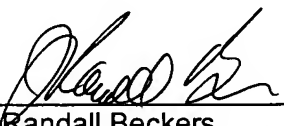
Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: _____

2/3/15

By: _____



J. Randall Beckers
Registration No. 30,358

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501